

Michigan Natural Features Inventory
Michigan State University Extension
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Lansing, MI 48909-7944

May 14, 2007

Sec. Marlene H. Dortch
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Secretary Marlene H. Dortch,

This letter is submitted Ex-Parte after a conversation with Mr. Louis Peraertz on May 11, 2007.

Louis Peraertz called me kindly requesting information regarding the location of bird migration flyways in relation to the location of the Michigan communication towers that I studied between 2003 and 2005 (see my comments submitted to the FCC on this matter for more detail on the Michigan study). I shared with Mr. Peraertz that in general songbird migration was more of a “broad front” movement across Michigan compared to narrow flight corridors or flyways. I offered to send him citations for scientific journal articles that documented these large-scale movements of songbirds using NEXRAD and radar ornithology (e.g., Diehl et al. 2003) if he was interested. When Mr. Peraertz asked if I believed that the Michigan study towers were in bird migration flyways I told him that given the “broad fronts” of songbird migration through Michigan that the towers were indeed in migration pathways.

I also offered a quick summary of general songbird migration spatial trends in the United States (i.e., eastern United States vs. western United States vs. Appalachian Mountains, etc.). In addition, I mentioned the importance of stopover areas to migratory songbirds.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the NPRM process.

Sincerely,
Joelle Gehring, Ph.D.,
Senior Conservation Scientist, Zoology
Michigan Natural Features Inventory